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News organizations are facing federal government censorship that is worse than it was during wartime, said Jack Landau, executive director of the Reporter's Committee for Freedom of the Press.

"We are facing the most carefully contrived and well implemented policy ... to restrict press and public access to government information," Landau said Saturday during a meeting of the Radio-Television News Directors Association of the Carolinas.

Among moves to restrict the flow of information, Landau said:

- U.S. Attorney General William French Smith encourages suppression of government information, reversing Carter administration policies of openness.

- Smith also supports surprise raids of newsrooms by law enforcement authorities.

- President Reagan has made it easier for government agencies, such as the CIA and the FBI, to monitor news organizations and academic institutions.

- The administration has cracked down on government employees who might write about their government service. They must now sign a contract under which the agency they worked for must clear the information.

- More than 144,000 employees who are involved with only mid-level classified information must take a lie-detector test.

Other presidents, who held office during wartime, did not require such measures, "but this peacetime president has decided that people are threatening national security."

The Reagan administration has also reduced by one-third the number of government reports, supposedly because they cost too much.

However, "more money is spent each year on governmental bands than on public information offices," Landau said.

Reagan has "supported every effort to mutilate the federal Freedom of Information act," according to Landau.

The president supports a bill by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, which would suppress information on government legal settlements as well as information on organized crime, counter-intelligence and terrorism.